

WHY JOIN THE SOA CYMRU COMMITTEE?

About SoA Cymru

What is SoA Cymru?

SoA Cymru is the nation group of the Society of Authors representing members living in Wales.

What Does the SoA Cymru Committee Do?

The SoA Cymru Committee ensures that the SoA's advocacy reflects the needs of Welsh members. We ensure a good flow of communication between SoA Cymru members and the administrative team at the Society of Authors (SoA) who work on the members' behalf. We also work to address issues raised by the membership and respond on the membership's behalf to relevant issues in the wider literary and cultural landscape.

The Committee is always open to new ideas on both campaigning and events, and happy for its members to take the lead on areas they feel passionately about. The activities of the Committee vary in response to issues raised by the wider SoA Cymru community and the particular skills and interests of Committee members.

Impact and Opportunities

Influence on Policy:

- Committee members are the voice of writers working in Wales to the SoA Management Committee (ManCom)
- Committee members are consulted on relevant SoA policies and initiatives
- Committee members can champion new industry-related projects and campaigns

Recent SoA Committee Projects and Campaigns:

- Investigation into the funding landscape in Wales
- Curation of event on Climate Emergency with Tom Bullough and Nicola Davies, chaired by Vice-Chair Cath Barton
- Curation of event on making a living as a writer in Wales with Kathryn Tann and Julia Forster, chaired by committee member Helen Docherty.
- Discussions around building connections to enable lobbying at Senedd level to improve funding.
- Work to improve the diversity of the Committee but also to improve the diversity (using all measures) of the membership in Wales.

Benefits & Professional Development:

- Increased exposure through SoA events and publications.

- Greater prominence in and access to a network of fellow authors, and industry professionals.
- An opportunity to deepen your understanding of the Publishing industry.
- Influence on policies and standards within the publishing industry.
- Gain experience of organisational governance in a supportive environment.

What's Involved?

Duties:

- Attend five Committee meetings (February, April, June, September and November), virtually or in-person when hybrid option made available.
- Prepare for meetings: submit papers promptly if/when proposing topics for discussion at meeting; read others' papers.
- Desk-based administration, communications, research and other supporting tasks related to topics emerging from meetings.
- Join and contribute to SoA Cymru/SoA working groups based on your interests and expertise.

Time Commitment:

- Meetings: 1.5 hours five times per year.
- Administration, communications, preparation and other tasks: typically 1 hour per month.
- Additional commitments: dependent on your appetite for involvement.

Opportunities include:

- representing SoA Cymru at Man Com meetings,
- representing SoA Cymru at Policy and Campaign sub-committee meetings,
- occasional opportunities to chair events organised by the committee as part of the wider SoA@Home events programme,
- attending local group meetings to ensure members' concerns are accurately represented at SoA Cymru committee meetings.

Term Length:

- Members of the SoA Committee serve for three years from the September committee meeting when their election is confirmed.
- Members can be co-opted for additional service if needed, by agreement of the SoA Cymru Committee.

Logistics

Meeting Frequency and Format:

- Usually five meetings per year; generally, in February, April, June, September and November
- Meetings last for 1-1.5 hours and take place between the hours of 9:00 and 17:00.
- Online for the purposes of inclusion and accessibility

Meeting Expenses:

Members may apply to the SoA Access Fund which gives support for childcare and access costs. Further details [here](#).

The Committee Structure:

- Led by a Chair (or Co-chairs) on a 2-year term, elected from within the SoA Cymru Committee, who may represent the SoA Cymru to the SoA ManCom.
- Membership consists of a minimum of 5 elected members.
- Read more about the current Committee [here](#).

Diversity and Inclusion

It is important that the Committee is representative of writers working in Wales, with a broad range of genres and stages of career on the Committee. We particularly welcome potential members who are under 35 as well as writers from the global majority.

How to join the Committee

To nominate yourself, please email [Emma Boniwell](mailto:emma.boniwell@societyofauthors.org) (Staff Co-ordinator) with a brief statement of 250 words or less addressed to the wider SoA Cymru membership, stating why you want to join and what you can bring to the Committee.

Your nomination does not need to be supported by any other member. Please note you must be a Full Member and not an Associate. Check with membership@societyofauthors.org if you are unsure of your membership status.

The closing date for nominations is.

The Committee currently has four vacancies. If we receive more nominations than places, we will hold an online ballot in September.

The successful candidates will be invited to attend the online SoA Cymru Committee meeting in September **10 – 11.30am** and the results will be confirmed officially at the online SoA Cymru social in October.

Any questions? Please get in touch.

Emma Boniwell (SoA Cymru Co-ordinator) eboniwell@societyofauthors.org

Cath Barton (current Vice chair) may be contacted via the co-ordinator

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